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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Lester et al.

Application No. 10/748,706

Filed: December 30, 2003

Title: **Soft Tissue Attachment System and Method**



MMB Docket No. 1671-0278

J&J Reference: **DEP5160USNP**

Examiner: **Bruce Edward Snow**

Group Art Unit: **3738**

Confirmation No. **2131**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 24, 2006
(Date of Deposit)

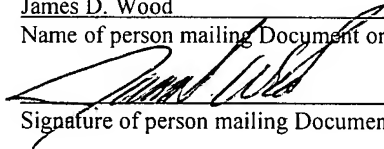
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PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In connection with the Office Action mailed October 24, 2005 in the above-entitled application, Applicants respectfully request a two (2) month extension in which to file a response, from January 24, 2006 to March 24, 2006.

The fee required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 is being submitted herewith. Also, please provide any further extensions of time which may be necessary and charge any fees which may be due to Deposit Account No. 13-0014, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

Respectfully Submitted,

MAGINOT, MOORE & BECK

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James D. Wood', is written over the firm name.

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March 24, 2006

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